

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

JAMES BROADHEAD, #224802,

:

Plaintiff,

:

vs.

: CIVIL ACTION 11-0605-CG-M

L. PAMTON, et al.,

:

Defendants.

:

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

This § 1983 action, filed by an Alabama prison inmate proceeding *pro se*¹, was referred to the undersigned pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local Rule 72.2(c)(4) for appropriate action. For reasons set forth below, it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

Section 1915(g) provides:

In no event shall a prisoner bring a civil action or appeal a judgment in a civil action or proceeding under this section [28 U.S.C. § 1915] if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an

¹ The Court notes that the filing fee for this action has not been paid and Plaintiff has not filed a Motion to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*.

action or appeal in a court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under imminent danger of serious physical injury.

During the screening of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B), the Court discovered that, after reviewing the records of the United States District Courts for the Southern, Middle, and Northern Districts of Alabama, plaintiff has at least three actions that were previously dismissed as frivolous or malicious, or for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, namely, *Broadhead v. Hopkins, et al.*, CA 10-0439-LSC-RRA (N.D. Ala. June 18, 2010); *Broadhead v. McConuco, et al.*, CA 09-0384-CB-N (S.D. Ala. May 21, 2010); *Broadhead v. Kirrie et al.*, CA 10-0053-VEH-RRA (N.D. Ala. Nov. 30, 2010); and *Broadhead v. O'Brian et al.*, CA 10-0475-JHH-RRA (N.D. Ala. June 22, 2010). Thus, plaintiff has three or more dismissals that qualify the present complaint for treatment under § 1915(g).

In order to avoid the dismissal of the present action pursuant to §1915(g), Plaintiff must satisfy the exception

to § 1915(g), which requires that at the time of the Complaint's filing, he must show that he was "under imminent danger of serious physical injury." *Medberry v. Butler*, 185 F.3d 1189, 1193 (11th Cir. 1999) (the plaintiff must face imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time the complaint is filed, not at a prior time); *Brown v. Johnson*, 387 F.3d 1344, 1349 (11th Cir. 2004) ("a prisoner must allege a present imminent danger, as opposed to a past danger, to proceed under section 1915(g)"); see *Adbul-Akabar v. McKelvie*, 239 F.3d 307, 315 (3d Cir. 2001) ("By using the term 'imminent,' Congress indicated that it wanted to include a safety valve for the 'three strikes' rule to prevent impending harms, not those harms that had already occurred."), *cert. denied*, 533 U.S. 953 (2001)(emphasis added). Thus, in order satisfy the exception to § 1915(g), Plaintiff "must allege and provide specific fact allegations of ongoing serious physical injury, or a pattern of misconduct evidencing the likelihood of imminent serious physical injury[.]" *Ball v. Allen*, CA No. 06-0496-CG-M, 2007 WL 484547, at *1 (S.D. Ala. Feb. 8, 2007) (quotation and quotation marks omitted) (unpublished) (Granade, C.J.).

In reviewing the Complaint's allegations (Doc. 1), the Court does not discern a claim showing that Plaintiff was under imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time he filed the Complaint. The Court received Plaintiff's Complaint on October 25, 2011 and the Complaint itself was signed by Plaintiff on October 17, 2011. Plaintiff alleges that four Defendants² at Holman Correctional Facility used deadly excessive force by striking Plaintiff 879 times, which caused him to have his arm broken in three places, staples in his head, three or four teeth knocked out, and his ankles fractured (Doc. 1, pp. 4-5). Also, Plaintiff indicates that he was taken to Cooper-Green Hospital (*Id.*). However, Plaintiff does not articulate when this attack happened. For relief, Plaintiff seeks punitive and compensatory damages. (*Id.* at 5).

Considering all of Plaintiff's allegations, the Court finds that they do not show that he was under "imminent danger of serious physical injury" at the time of filing. The alleged assault occurred once in the past, and

²The Court notes that Plaintiff only names three Defendants, not four.

Plaintiff does not plead specific facts to show a real and imminent danger of serious physical injury at the time of filing or in the future. Moreover, it appears that Plaintiff has complained of this incident in previously filed complaints. See *Broadhead v. Earl*, 2012 WL 443854, *2 (S.D. Ala. Jan. 12, 2012)(unpublished) citing to *Broadhead v. Langford*, CA 11-0320-CG-M (S.D. Ala. Oct. 24, 2011).

The allegations in prior instances are as follows:

he was beaten by four correctional officers at Holman Correctional Facility with security sticks (the four officers are different in each action), his arm was broken in three places, staples were needed in his head, three or four teeth were knocked out . . . and he was hit ... 879 times in the prior action. In both actions he was taken to Cooper-Green Hospital.

Id. at *2. The only new allegation made in this present action different from the aforementioned actions is that Plaintiff also sustained ankle fractures in this instance.

By failing to provide a date of the incident in this action, Plaintiff fails to show that he was under an imminent threat. Also, Plaintiff's present allegations do not show that imminent harm existed on October 17, 2011 when he signed his Complaint because he made almost identical allegations in his prior actions on August 25, 2011 and June 16, 2011. See *Broadhead v. Earl*, 2012 WL

443854 at *2, n. 1 & 2. The Court finds that Plaintiff has complained of the *same* incident of being struck 879 times by four correctional officers at Holman Correctional Facility multiple times. Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to show that he was under "imminent danger of serious physical injury" when he filed the present action, but rather is reciting an alleged past incident that has been the inception of multiple filings in this Court.

Because Plaintiff cannot avail himself of § 1915(g)'s exception, and on account of his failure to pay the \$350.00 filing fee at the time he filed this action, Plaintiff's action is due to be dismissed without prejudice. *Dupree v. Palmer*, 284 F.3d 1234, 1236 (11th Cir. 2002) (holding that an action must be dismissed without prejudice when an inmate who is subject to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g) does not pay the full filing fee at the time he *initiates* the action); *Vanderberg v. Donaldson*, 259 F.3d 1321, 1324 (11th Cir.) (holding that the filing fee paid must be paid by an inmate subject to § 1915(g) at the time an action is commenced), *cert. denied*, 535 U.S. 976 (2002). Therefore, it is recommended that this action be dismissed without prejudice pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

The instructions that follow the undersigned's signature contain important information regarding objections to the report and recommendation of the Magistrate Judge.

DONE this 17th day of February, 2011.

s/Bert W. Milling, Jr.
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION, AND
FINDINGS CONCERNING NEED FOR TRANSCRIPT**

1. **Objection.** Any party who objects to this recommendation, or anything in it, must, within fourteen (14) days of the date of service of this document, file specific written objections with the Clerk of this Court. Failure to do so will bar a de novo determination by the district judge of anything in the recommendation and will bar an attack, on appeal, of the factual findings of the Magistrate Judge. See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); Lewis v. Smith, 855 F.2d 736, 738 (11th Cir. 1988); Nettles v. Wainwright, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. Unit B, 1982)(en banc). The procedure for challenging the findings and recommendations of the Magistrate Judge is set out in more detail in SD ALA LR 72.4 (June 1, 1997), which provides that:

A party may object to a recommendation entered by a magistrate judge in a dispositive matter, that is, a matter excepted by 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), by filing a "Statement of Objection to Magistrate Judge's Recommendation" within ten days³ after being served with a copy of the recommendation, unless a different

³ Effective December 1, 2009, the time for filing written objections was extended to "14 days after being served with a copy of the recommended disposition[.]" Fed.R.Civ.P. 72(b)(2).

time is established by order. The statement of objection shall specify those portions of the recommendation to which objection is made and the basis for the objection. The objecting party shall submit to the district judge, at the time of filing the objection, a brief setting forth the party's arguments that the magistrate judge's recommendation should be reviewed de novo and a different disposition made. It is insufficient to submit only a copy of the original brief submitted to the magistrate judge, although a copy of the original brief may be submitted or referred to and incorporated into the brief in support of the objection. Failure to submit a brief in support of the objection may be deemed an abandonment of the objection.

A magistrate judge's recommendation cannot be appealed to a Court of Appeals; only the district judge's order or judgment can be appealed.

2. **Transcript (applicable Where Proceedings Tape Recorded)**.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915 and FED.R.CIV.P. 72(b), the Magistrate Judge finds that the tapes and original records in this case are adequate for purposes of review. Any party planning to object to this recommendation, but unable to pay the fee for a transcript, is advised that a judicial determination that transcription is necessary is required before the United States will pay the cost of the transcript.